

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01

AF-06 IO-11 /077 W

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P R 031806Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5892

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 0754

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJECT: SOARES IN AZORES

REF: PONTA DELGADA 0052 (DTG 031040Z FEB 76)

SUMMARY: IN FEB 2 PONTA DELGADA PRESS CONFERENCE, SOCIALIST
LEADER MARIO SOARES STATED LAJES NEGOTIATIONS WOULD REMAIN FROZEN
UNTIL AFTER ELECTIONS. HE ALSO SLAMMED AZOREAN SEPARATISTS.
END SUMMARY.

1. AS REPORTED REFTEL, AZOREAN SEPARATISTS DISRUPTED FEB 2
PONTA DELGADA RALLY BY SOCIALIST SEC GEN MARIO SOARES. SOARES LATER
TERMED INCIDENT "VICTORY" FOR PS AND "DEATH CERTIFICATE" FOR
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AZOREAN LIBERATION FRONT.

2. SOARES ON LAJES: IN FEB 2 PRESS CONFERENCE, MEANWHILE, SOARES COMMENTED ON STATUS OF GOP-USG NEGOTIATIONS ON AZORES FACILITIES. SOARES SAID THAT QUESTION HAD NOT BEEN DISCUSSED IN HIS TALKS WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER. HE CONFIRMED THAT NEGOTIATIONS WERE CURRENTLY "FROZEN" AND WOULD RECOMMENCE ONLY AFTER ELECTIONS AND FORMATION OF "STABLE GOVERNMENT ELECTED BY THE PEOPLE." SOARES ADDED THAT HE SUPPORTED IDEA OF AZOREAN REPRESENTATIVE ON PORTUGUESE DELEGATION FOR FUTURE NEGOTIATIONS.

3. AZOREAN SEPARATISM SCORED: SOARES ALSO CAME DOWN HARD ON AZOREAN SEPARATISTS. ALTHOUGH THEY ARE HIGHLY VISIBLE, HE SAID, THEY LACK NOT ONLY THE SUPPORT OF THE AZOREAN POPULATION, BUT ALSO, "AS I WAS RECENTLY ABLE TO OBSERVE" (ON HIS VISIT TO UNITED STATES), SUPPORT AMONG AZOREANS IN AMERICA. SOARES STATED HE FELT COMMENTS BY POTENTIAL CDS PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE GALVAO DE MELO -- ALSO VISITING AZORES -- "POSITIVE." IN HIS COMMENTS TO AZOREAN AUDIENCES, GALVAO DE MELO HAD STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF TIES BETWEEN AZORES AND PORTUGAL.
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